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29 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: a. Relations With FBI

b. Origin of Classified Materials Controls

It was the suggestion of [REDACTED] of Historical Staff on the referenced subjects that a possible source of information would be [REDACTED] a recently retired member of the Agency's Board of National Estimates who is engaged on contract to contribute to the Historical Staff projects. On 28 October 1970 two telephone conversations were held by telephone with [REDACTED], the first at his Historical Staff office, Ext. 2621, and the second at his Headquarters Building office, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] said that a possibly interesting memorandum relating to the dealings of the Agency with FBI was a Memorandum for the Record, dated 7 November 1951, by [REDACTED]. The memorandum is a minute of a luncheon meeting which General Smith, the DCI, had with J. Edgar Hoover. Various other Agency people attended it, including [REDACTED] and Mr. Dulles. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain more cooperation from FBI in various matters. [REDACTED] said his interest was in what was discussed in the field of foreign intelligence, and he considers the memorandum significant historically as to this. He did not know whether or not the subject of personnel investigations came up, but thought it possible and thought the memorandum should be reviewed.

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[REDACTED] did not have a copy of the memorandum but has the card record of it. The card states the memorandum is in a folder "FBI-1951" in Job 58-477 at the Records Center. He will send us a copy of the file.

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[REDACTED] further said that during OSS he was with the Joint Intelligence Committee. He recalls that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had a unit called "Joint Security Control," but he did not know its specific functions nor just how and when it had been established. He recalled that this Joint Security Control did exercise jurisdiction over classified material of JCS which had been transmitted to other agencies, and knew it established the rules regarding its handling. He said it would have held authority to supervise the controls over handling of classified material in OSS. What further security jurisdiction this Joint Security Control unit had, [REDACTED] said he did not know, but assumed it acted for JCS in all security matter.

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[REDACTED] said that the reference to "Security Control" in the JCS Directive of 23 December 1942 (the "Golden Directive," as it was called in OSS) setting out the functions of OSS, means this Joint Security Control unit. The reference (at. Par. 7(e)) is that the timing of [REDACTED] measures by OSS "is subject to the direction of Security Control." He said it is correct to take from this the understanding that Joint Security Control embraced broad security jurisdiction beyond the mere handling of documents.

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As to the Security Advisory Board of OWI, [REDACTED] said he knew there had been such an office or function, and merely assumes that it was created to control the classified information transmitted by JCS to OWI, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] further said that Joint Security Control would have had a hand in the formation of regulations regarding the care and use of classified material. He recalled that before World War II the military had used no classification categories

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beyond or other than "Secret." However, the British used a higher category they called "Most Secret," and the French one called "Tres Secret." OSS followed the British and were using "Most Secret," but there was objection among the military to this. The new regulations defining the classification categories were held up for a couple of months over this matter.

The recollection of [REDACTED] is that it was a general whose name was something like [REDACTED] who held out insistently for no category other than "Secret," arguing that if something were "Secret" it could not be more nor less than that; either a thing was secret or it wasn't. The proposal that "Most Secret" be adopted by the U.S. Government was blocked effectively. Finally a compromise was worked out to use "Top Secret," and this was adopted. This term was accepted because it did not qualify "Secret," but indicated a class of "Secret" which was to receive special and/or restricted handling. Mr. [REDACTED] said "Top Secret" never had been used previously, and this was its origin.

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[REDACTED] recalled that there was a Security Advisory Board within the Office of War Information, and he believed that its functions were internal to OWI, along the lines of insuring ^{that} news released for public dissemination did not contain any material which had been classified by the military.

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[REDACTED]
OS/Historical Staff